



PRESS RELEASE

United States Secret Service
Department of Homeland Security

Feb. 26, 2019

SECRET SERVICE CONCLUDES FIRST NATIONWIDE TOUR ON PREVENTING SCHOOL ATTACKS

***“Protecting America’s Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence”
research presented in four major U.S. cities***

(Washington, D.C.) - The U.S. Secret Service has concluded the first four-city nationwide tour to present the findings of the National Threat Assessment Center’s (NTAC) new report [“Protecting America’s Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence.”](#) The report studies 41 incidents and serves as the most comprehensive analysis on targeted school violence ever conducted by the federal government.

More than 3,000 law enforcement officers, educators and administrators, and mental health professionals in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, and Miami attended specialized briefings of the report and its findings. NTAC Chief Dr. Lina Alathari and Supervisory Research Specialist Steven Driscoll led the briefings.

“For more than 100 years, the primary responsibility of the Secret Service has been the prevention of violence,” said U.S. Secret Service Director James M. Murray. “Threat assessment is as important to preventing targeted violence as the physical measures we employ.”

“‘Protecting America’s Schools’ is a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding 41 different school attacks and includes everything from home life factors to the manner in which these attacks were carried out,” said Assistant Director of Strategic Intelligence and Information Frederick Sellers. “This study will inform law enforcement, educators, school administrators, and members of the community on what to look for to keep all of our children safe.”

Three fathers who lost children in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, worked closely with NTAC in support of sharing these latest findings. Tony Montalto, Ryan Petty, and Max Schachter, represented Stand with Parkland and participated in the briefings and panel discussions in each city.

“NTAC [and the Secret Service] has championed prevention more than any other federal agency,” said Stand with Parkland President Tony Montalto. “This new report is building on over 20 years of study by NTAC. They analyzed the data connected to past attacks and have developed guidelines to aid in preventing tragedy.”

Additional participants included Susan Payne, the founder of the Safe2Tell prevention initiative developed after the Columbine attack, and Dr. Peter Langman, a psychologist and published author with expertise in school safety and prevention strategies. Participants also heard from Michele Gay, who lost her daughter in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Ms. Gay is the co-founder and executive director of Safe and Sound Schools, an organization providing research-based education and resources on crisis prevention, response and recovery.

NTAC routinely provides report presentations, consultations, and trainings nationwide to a variety of stakeholders on violence prevention. These efforts will continue as part of the center's standard operations.

To learn more, go to www.secretservice.gov or call your local Secret Service field office.

###